

Golden Globe Race 2018 - Falmouth to Les Sables-d'Olonne Report by Patrick Butler

When I saw the prelude to the Golden Globe races I was excited as I was very familiar with the race in real life and I was super keen to sail it on Sailonline. As a part of SRC I had the role of organising all the boats who opted to sail SOTP (Seat of The Pants). Once I saw how many people were sailing SOTP and how my schedule for the next few days was I just knew that I had to sail SOTP.

It was 10 minutes to go for the start of the race and I hadn't set my boats heading yet, so as rushed as I was I just took a quick glance at the wind direction and planned a quick route that I would follow. I then set DC's via the race screen and just hoped for the best. When I returned my route that I had quickly planned had worked and I was in the top half of the fleet (VERY Surprised).

The evening came, and I had planned to stay awake most of the night to have a good position around the first mark (Ushant GGR), very tired in the morning I rounded Ushant GGR in 2nd place and that was when I realised that I could be in for a top 10 position. I then saw that we (the top 3) were quite a distance from the rest and I knew that the two SOLers that I was with weren't sailing SOTP and that they had routers onboard, so I decided to cover them.

As we inched closer and closer to the finish, extremely tired I saw that I had taken the lead for the first time in the race, I told myself that it wouldn't last long and that it would be handed over to the next boat (In which I wasn't wrong in saying). I was watching the laptop screen and my phone continuously to see where my competitors were and how I could minimize their advantages over me, who was sailing SOTP, so therefore I was trying to go for better angles to the wind to get that extra bit of boat speed. With about 10 nautical miles to go I had taken the lead and this time I knew that I had the first position in my grasp. Many will know that I always tend to fall asleep or to hit the land when I am in first position making me just miss it but this time I was not willing to let it go. It was time for the last turn to the finish line and I knew that I had it. As we crossed the finish line I opened a bottle of Sparkling White Grape Juice in celebration (even though it was quite late at night and I was drinking it alone because everyone was asleep Haha).

When I joined Sailonline in 2012 I was in my first year of High School and I had dreamt of winning my very first race on SOL, But I had no idea how to even change my boat course or to even set a DC, and because Sailonline is so Awesome many individuals helped me with how to sail on SOL. Many of those that helped me are still SOLing today and I would just like to say thank you so much to every single one of those people that helped me, as if it wasn't for you I wouldn't have gotten my first ever race win, so I dedicate this win to all of you and to the amazing SOL Community.

So...Who would have thought...after 6 years of SOLing, 305 588,50 nautical miles and 310 races I would finally get my first win my sailing SOTP!! 😊

My personal congratulations go out to Kipper and Zoe who completed the podium. Also to Robert1 and Hew565 for completing the SOTP podium.

Fair Winds

Patrick/Patrick70119

